

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 00374 071737Z

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ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2683

INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS OTTAWA 0374

DEPARTMENT FOR CU/WE

USIA FOR IWE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, CA

SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT TO U.S. OF CANADIAN POLITICAL PARTY
LEADERS

1. EMBASSY HAS APPROACHED ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP OF CANADA'S FOUR POLITICAL PARTIES WITH TENTATIVE AND EXPLORATORY PROPOSAL TO SEND GROUP YOUNG PARTY ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERS TO THE U.S. FOR A WEEK OR TEN DAYS' LOOK AT U.S. POLITICAL PROCESS, ROLE OF POLITICAL PARTIES, AND FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO THEIR U.S. COUNTERPARTS. OBJECTIVE IS TO SEND YOUNG MEN WITH POLITICAL FUTURE IN CANADA WHO HAVE NOT HAD FIRST-HAND LOOK AT WAY OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM OPERATES. ALL PARTIES HAVE RESPONDED VERY FAVORABLY TO OUR PROPOSAL.

2. WE REQUEST A PROGRAM FOR SEVEN GRANTEES, TWO EACH FROM LIBERAL, PROGRESSIVE-CONSERVATIVE AND NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTIES AND ONE SOCIAL CREDIT. LIBERALS, HOWEVER, HAVE SUBMITTED FOUR NAMES, ALL OUTSTANDING MEN INCLUDING TWO EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS (ONTARIO AND QUEBEC) THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE DIRECTOR OF ORGANIZATION. CONSERVATIVES HAVE SUBMITTED NAMES OF THREE YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE PARTY RESEARCH STRUCTURE. THE NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY HAS INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE PARTY IS INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING. THE DIRECTOR OF THE SOCIAL CREDIT RESEARCH OFFICE IS ANXIOUS

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TO GO.

3. EMBASSY REQUESTS APPROVAL OF THIS PROJECT SO THAT WE CAN DISCUSS PROGRAM AND DATE WITH THE ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP OF THE PARTIES. LATE MARCH OR APRIL IS THE PREFERRED TIMING ALTHOUGH ANY PLANS WOULD BE CANCELLED IF A NATIONAL ELECTION WERE CALLED FOR 1974. BECAUSE OF THAT POSSIBILITY, THE SOONER THE GROUP TRAVELS THE BETTER.

4. OBSERVATION OF THE U.S. POLITICAL PROCESS AT BOTH THE FEDERAL AND STATE LEVEL WOULD BE DESIRABLE. FOLLOWING VISIT TO NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS AND CONGRESS, WE HOPE THAT A PROGRAM AT A STATE CAPITAL CAN BE ARRANGED. PLEASE ADVISE.
JOHNSON

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NNN

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